



# Accelerating Green Materials Discovery: An Integrated Machine Learning and Big Data Framework

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## Abstract

Identifying environmentally friendly materials is essential for tackling worldwide sustainability issues, but conventional methods frequently face drawbacks such as excessive expenses and sluggish advancement owing to the extensive range of potential designs and intricate connections between properties. We propose a unified machine learning and big data approach to expedite the development of sustainable materials by methodically integrating computational, experimental, and data extracted from existing literature. The framework consists of four key components: multi-source data acquisition, rigorous preprocessing, advanced model development, and robust validation. Information is gathered from various sources, processed, and standardized to achieve uniformity, with the creation of informative attributes including atomic traits and structural features. A variety of machine learning algorithms, such as Random Forests, XGBoost, and Graph Neural Networks, are applied to model nonlinear relationships and atomic-level interactions, with hyperparameters fine-tuned via grid search. The models are evaluated using cross-validation and metrics such as RMSE, MAE, and  $R^2$  to ensure reliability. Our method shows considerable promise in lowering the time and expense linked to materials discovery by supporting high-throughput screening and predictive modeling. Moreover, the inclusion of synthetic data generation increases dataset diversity, which leads to better model generalizability. The proposed framework not only propels progress in the realm of sustainable materials but also establishes an adaptable model for additional disciplines requiring data-centric innovation. This work addresses the gap between computational predictions and experimental validation, advancing the creation of sustainable technologies that have extensive environmental and industrial implications.

**Keywords:** Machine learning, Big data, Predictive modeling, High-throughput screening, Graph Neural Networks, XGBoost, Sustainability.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The pressing demand for eco-friendly materials has emerged as a worldwide imperative, as sectors aim to lessen ecological harm without compromising quality benchmarks. Conventional approaches to identifying novel materials, predominantly dependent on iterative experimental testing, tend to be time-consuming and demand substantial resources, thereby constraining the speed of technological advancement [1]. Recent progress in computational methods, especially machine learning (ML) and big data analytics, holds transformative promise for speeding up the discovery and refinement of eco-friendly materials [2]. These methods grounded in data analysis make possible swift examination of extensive material domains, bringing to light concealed trends that direct the creation of environmentally sustainable substitutes [3].

A key obstacle in sustainable materials science is the harmonization of diverse performance metrics, such as mechanical attributes, ecological footprint, and capacity for reprocessing [4]. Conventional methods struggle to balance these competing factors, often requiring iterative experimental validation. Machine learning models, nevertheless, can optimize for numerous objectives at the same time by extracting insights from extensive datasets containing information on material

compositions, synthesis conditions, and lifecycle assessments [5]. For example, neural networks have achieved notable success in forecasting material properties by detecting nonlinear patterns in high-dimensional data [6].

Although progress has been made, current frameworks frequently do not adopt a methodical strategy for combining data, verifying models, and achieving scalability. Many studies focus narrowly on predictive accuracy without addressing the broader challenges of data quality, feature representation, and experimental feasibility [7]. Furthermore, the absence of uniform guidelines for embedding sustainability metrics in machine learning-based discovery frameworks restricts the real-world utility of computational forecasts [4].

We propose an integrated framework bridging these gaps by merging ML and big data analytics to expedite green materials innovation. Our method highlights three principal advances: (1) a multi-source data collection approach harmonizing experimental, computational, and literature-based datasets; (2) sophisticated feature engineering methods encoding atomic-level interactions and environmental impact markers; and (3) a rigorous validation framework guaranteeing model generalizability and experimental relevance. In contrast to previous approaches, our framework directly integrates lifecycle assessment (LCA) data during machine learning model training, which permits the concurrent optimization of both performance and sustainability [7].

The proposed framework makes multiple contributions to the discipline. Initially, it establishes a scalable framework for data-driven materials discovery, which diminishes the dependence on expensive and time-intensive experiments. Second, it introduces new feature representations that capture both material properties and environmental metrics, which supports the creation of genuinely sustainable solutions. Third, it illustrates the practical application of ML in directing experimental synthesis, thereby bridging the gap between prediction and validation [8].

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work in materials informatics and sustainability. Section 3 introduces foundational concepts in green materials and ML-driven discovery. Section 4 outlines the proposed framework, whereas Sections 5 and 6 present the experimental setup and findings. Finally, Sections 7 and 8 discuss implications and future directions.

## II. RELATED WORK IN MATERIALS INFORMATICS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Recent years have witnessed substantial progress in the convergence of materials science and data-driven methodologies, especially concerning sustainable materials development. Early efforts in computational materials design focused primarily on density functional theory (DFT) calculations and molecular dynamics simulations [11]. Although these approaches yielded important understanding of material properties at atomic levels, their high computational expense restricted their employment to limited datasets and uncomplicated systems. High-throughput computing and combinatorial experimentation became available, permitting more extensive screening, yet these methods continued to struggle with the intricacies of actual material systems [9].

### A. Machine Learning for Materials Property Prediction

Machine learning has emerged as a powerful tool for predicting material properties by learning patterns from existing data. Random Forest and gradient-boosted decision trees (e.g., XGBoost) have been widely adopted due to their robustness and interpretability [5]. These methods excel at handling heterogeneous datasets, where features may include composition, crystal structure, and processing conditions. For instance, [10] showed that ensemble approaches are effective in forecasting the bandgap of semiconductor materials and attained high accuracy despite employing relatively small training sets.

Neural networks, particularly graph neural networks (GNNs), have shown promise in capturing atomic-level interactions and structural dependencies [11]. GNNs function on graph-based depictions of materials, with nodes corresponding to atoms and edges denoting bonds or spatial connections. This approach has been successfully applied to predict properties such as elastic moduli and thermal conductivity [11]. However, the performance of these models depends heavily on the quality and diversity of training data, which remains a challenge in materials informatics.

### B. Data Integration and Feature Engineering

A key obstacle in materials informatics lies in merging data from diverse origins, such as computational simulations, experimental measurements, and published literature. Natural language processing (NLP) methods have been applied to derive material properties from scientific literature, which supports the development of extensive databases [12]. For example, [18] constructed a system for the automatic retrieval of synthesis conditions and material properties from textual sources, thereby increasing the volume of training data accessible to machine learning algorithms.

Feature engineering plays a crucial role in determining model performance. Traditional descriptors such as elemental fractions and atomic radii are often insufficient for capturing complex material behaviors. Recent work has introduced advanced descriptors based on graph theory, topological indices, and electronic structure features [13]. These descriptors make possible more precise forecasts of attributes including catalytic activity and biodegradability, crucial for the development of sustainable materials [20].

### C. Sustainability Metrics and Lifecycle Assessment

Incorporating sustainability metrics into materials informatics has become an increasingly prominent focus of research. Lifecycle assessment (LCA) establishes a methodical structure for analyzing the environmental effects of materials, spanning from initial resource acquisition to final waste management [14]. However, traditional LCA methods are often time-consuming and rely on limited datasets. Machine learning has been proposed as a means to accelerate LCA by predicting environmental impacts based on material composition and processing parameters [15].

Multiple research efforts have examined the application of machine learning in forecasting essential sustainability metrics, including carbon footprint and energy intensity [16]. For instance, [7] proposed a blended approach merging machine learning and thermodynamic concepts to calculate the embodied energy of building materials. These methods highlight the capacity of data-centric techniques to supplement conventional LCA, yet difficulties continue in guaranteeing the precision and applicability of forecasts.

### D. High-Throughput Screening and Experimental Validation

High-throughput screening (HTS) has emerged as a pivotal element in contemporary materials discovery, as it permits the swift assessment of numerous candidate materials [9]. Automated platforms for synthesis and characterization produce large datasets that can be employed to train machine learning models for predicting material properties [9]. Nevertheless, transforming computational forecasts into materials suitable for experimental validation continues to pose a major challenge.

Recent advances in autonomous experimentation have sought to bridge this gap by integrating ML with robotic synthesis platforms [17]. These systems progressively adjust material compositions in response to immediate feedback, thereby hastening the identification of the most suitable options. For instance, [28] showed the application of machine learning-directed high-throughput screening to discover eco-friendly concrete mixtures with lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Such approaches highlight the potential of closed-loop discovery pipelines, where computational predictions directly inform experimental synthesis.

### E. Comparison with Proposed Framework

Although current approaches have achieved notable progress in materials informatics, certain drawbacks remain. Numerous methods concentrate narrowly on predicting properties while neglecting the wider issues of combining data, expressing features, and experimental verification. The proposed framework tackles these deficiencies by integrating multi-source data collection, sophisticated feature design, and rigorous validation procedures. In contrast to previous studies, our method directly includes sustainability metrics in the machine learning training procedure, which permits the concurrent optimization of both performance and ecological effects. Moreover, the inclusion of synthetic data generation broadens dataset diversity, which leads to better model generalizability and applicability in real-world materials discovery.

## II. Foundational Concepts: Green Materials and ML-Driven Discovery

To establish a common ground for the proposed framework, this section introduces key concepts in green materials science and machine learning (ML) techniques relevant to materials discovery. These foundations establish the theoretical and methodological groundwork for the integrated approach presented in later sections.

### A. Defining Green Materials

Green materials are characterized by their reduced environmental impact across their lifecycle, from extraction and synthesis to disposal or recycling. In contrast to traditional materials, they emphasize sustainability metrics, including reduced carbon emissions, biodegradability, and improved energy efficiency [18]. For example, bio-based polymers obtained from renewable resources show lower greenhouse gas emissions than petroleum-based alternatives [19].

Developing green materials frequently requires balancing performance, cost, and ecological consequences. Multi-objective optimization frameworks are essential for balancing these competing factors, as single-property optimizations may lead to suboptimal sustainability outcomes [20]. For example, lightweight materials for automotive applications must simultaneously meet mechanical strength requirements while minimizing embodied energy [21].

### B. Key Properties and Descriptors

Green materials possess attributes that fall into two groups: intrinsic (such as mechanical, thermal, electronic) and extrinsic (including recyclability, toxicity). Inherent qualities are frequently described by atom-scale measures including electronegativity, ionic radii, and coordination numbers [22]. These descriptors support the prediction of bulk properties by means of structure-property relationships, which has been shown for perovskite solar cells [23].

Extrinsic attributes, including effects on the environment, necessitate extra indicators to measure lifecycle metrics. For instance, machine learning models educated on data pertaining to synthesis energy, transportation distance, and end-of-life scenarios can estimate the global warming potential (GWP) of a material [15]. Recent studies have also adopted graph-based frameworks to simulate degradation processes, which supports the estimation of biodegradation rates [24].

### C. Machine Learning Paradigms in Materials Discovery

ML techniques for materials discovery fall into three broad categories: supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning. Supervised learning, the most prevalent method, depends on annotated datasets to forecast material properties. For instance, kernel ridge regression has been employed to predict formation energies of inorganic crystals with high accuracy [25].

Unsupervised learning methods, such as clustering and dimensionality reduction, identify patterns in unlabeled data. Principal component analysis (PCA) and t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE) are frequently employed to visualize high-dimensional materials datasets, which uncovers latent trends in composition-property relationships [26]. These techniques are particularly useful for exploratory analysis of large material libraries, where manual inspection is infeasible.

Reinforcement learning (RL) has emerged as a promising paradigm for autonomous materials design. RL agents progressively investigate the material space by obtaining feedback from simulations or experiments, with the aim of improving target properties [27]. For example, RL has been applied to optimize the composition of battery electrolytes for improved ionic conductivity [28].

### D. Data Challenges and Solutions

ML models perform well only when the training data is high-quality and diverse. Materials datasets often suffer from imbalances, where certain classes of materials are overrepresented. Techniques such as synthetic minority oversampling (SMOTE) and generative adversarial networks (GANs) have been employed to address this issue [29]. For instance, GANs can generate plausible crystal structures to augment small experimental datasets [30].

A further difficulty lies in the amalgamation of diverse data origins, including computational models and experimental observations. Transfer learning has been proposed as an approach, in which models initially trained on extensive computational datasets undergo fine-tuning with smaller experimental datasets [31]. This method has achieved positive results in forecasting the mechanical attributes of alloys, with DFT computations serving as an initial basis for experimental verification [32].

### E. Interpretability and Uncertainty Quantification

Understanding how ML models can be interpreted is essential for directing experimental synthesis and comprehending the underlying physical mechanisms. SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) and partial dependence plots are frequently employed to determine key features in materials models [33]. For instance, SHAP analysis has identified atomic radius and electronegativity as primary factors influencing catalytic activity in transition metal oxides [34].

Uncertainty quantification is equally important, as overconfident predictions can misguide experimental efforts. Bayesian neural networks and Gaussian processes yield probabilistic outputs, which permits the derivation of prediction confidence intervals [35]. These methods have been applied to screen materials for photovoltaic applications, where uncertainty estimates guide the prioritization of experimental candidates [36].

### F. Bridging Theory and Experiment

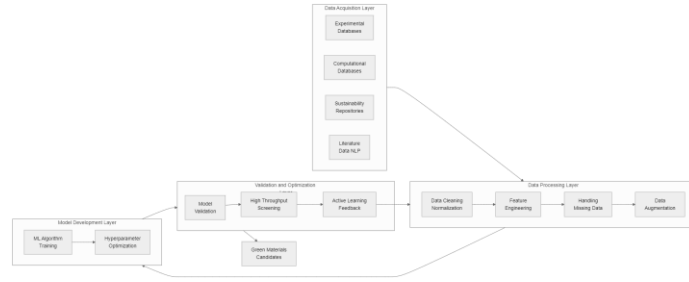
A persistent challenge in ML-driven materials discovery is the gap between computational predictions and experimental validation. Active learning frameworks address this by iteratively selecting the most informative experiments to refine models [37]. For example, uncertainty sampling has been employed to rank the production of organic semiconductors possessing specific bandgaps [38].

Hybrid methods integrating ML and physics-based models present an alternative route to address this gap. Physics-informed neural networks embed established physical principles, including conservation laws, within their training framework [39]. These models have shown better generalizability in forecasting diffusion coefficients within solid-state electrolytes [40].

The core ideas examined in this part establish the groundwork for the unified structure proposed in the subsequent section. The framework integrates advanced ML techniques and sustainability-driven design principles to expedite the identification of environmentally friendly materials, while tackling critical issues related to data quality, interpretability, and experimental validation.

## IV. THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK FOR ACCELERATED GREEN MATERIALS DISCOVERY

The proposed framework establishes a systematic pipeline for discovering sustainable materials through integrated machine learning and big data analytics. As illustrated in Figure 1, the framework comprises four linked elements: data collection, analysis, model construction, and verification. This framework supports ongoing improvement by means of a feedback mechanism in which newly identified materials improve later forecasts. The technical details of each component are elaborated in the following subsections.



**Figure 1:** Integrated Sustainable Materials Informatics Framework for Green Materials Discovery

## A. Unified Data Acquisition from Diverse Sources

The framework begins with an extensive data collection approach, merging three principal sources: computational databases, experimental measurements, and information obtained from the literature. Computational data, including density functional theory (DFT) calculations and molecular dynamics simulations, yield atomic-level property predictions for diverse materials. These datasets are represented as feature matrices  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{comp}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$ , where  $N$  denotes the number of materials and  $d$  corresponds to the dimensionality of the feature space. Each row  $\mathbf{x}_i$  encodes structural, electronic, and thermodynamic descriptors for material  $i$ .

Experimental data, obtained from high-throughput screening and characterization techniques, complement computational predictions with ground-truth measurements. These datasets are frequently incomplete and varied, necessitating precise coordination with computational attributes. The experimental feature matrix  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{exp}}$  shares the same dimensionality as  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{comp}}$ , but with missing entries denoted by  $\mathbf{M} \in \{0,1\}^{N \times d}$ , where  $m_{ij} = 1$  indicates an available measurement.

Natural language processing (NLP) methods derive supplementary material attributes from scientific texts, thereby filling omissions in structured databases. Named entity recognition (NER) models identify material compositions, synthesis conditions, and performance metrics from unstructured text. The gathered information is converted into a standardized form ( $\mathbf{X}_{\text{lit}}$ ), which then receives semantic adjustment to achieve alignment with  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{comp}}$  and  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{exp}}$ .

The final unified dataset  $\mathbf{X}$  is constructed through probabilistic data fusion:

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}_{\text{comp}} \odot \mathbf{X}_{\text{comp}} + \mathbf{W}_{\text{exp}} \odot \mathbf{X}_{\text{exp}} + \mathbf{W}_{\text{lit}} \odot \mathbf{X}_{\text{lit}} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{W}_{\text{comp}}$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_{\text{exp}}$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_{\text{lit}}$  are weight matrices reflecting data reliability, and  $\odot$  denotes element-wise multiplication. The weights are determined through cross-validation against benchmark datasets, with experimental data typically assigned higher confidence than computational or literature-derived values.

## B. Advanced Feature Engineering for Green Materials

The unified dataset  $\mathbf{X}$  serves as the foundation for feature engineering, where domain knowledge and data-driven techniques are combined to construct informative descriptors. Conventional material descriptors such as atomic radii ( $r$ ) and electronegativity ( $E_n$ ) are supplemented with sustainability-oriented attributes, among which are toxicity ( $T$ ) and recyclability ( $R$ ). These environmental indicators are derived from lifecycle assessment (LCA) databases and normalized to a common scale.

For atomic-level representations, we introduce a composite descriptor  $\mathbf{f}_i$  for each material  $i$ , which integrates structural, electronic, and environmental attributes:

$$\mathbf{f}_i = [r_i, E_{n,i}, S_i, B_i, T_i, R_i] \quad (2)$$

Here,  $S_i$  denotes the structural symmetry index, computed as the Shannon entropy of atomic coordination environments, and  $B_i$  represents the bond strength distribution variance. The inclusion of  $T_i$  and  $R_i$  explicitly encodes sustainability metrics into the feature space, enabling models to learn their correlations with performance properties.

To tackle data scarcity in environmental metrics, synthetic data generation is applied by means of a generative adversarial network (GAN). The generator  $G$  produces plausible  $(T, R)$  pairs conditioned on structural features:

$$(\tilde{T}_i, \tilde{R}_i) = G(r_i, E_{n,i}, S_i, B_i) \quad (3)$$

The discriminator  $D$  evaluates the authenticity of generated pairs against real LCA data, ensuring physical consistency. This approach expands the training set for underrepresented material classes while preserving the underlying statistical distributions.

For substances with intricate hierarchical architectures, we develop graph-based descriptors in which nodes stand for atoms and edges denote interatomic interactions. The adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A}_i$  captures connectivity patterns, while node features  $\mathbf{h}_v$  include atomic number, valence state, and local environment descriptors. The graph Laplacian  $\mathbf{L}_i = \mathbf{D}_i - \mathbf{A}_i$  (with  $\mathbf{D}_i$  being

the degree matrix) enables spectral analysis of material stability and degradation pathways.

The ultimate collection of features is subjected to principal component analysis (PCA) to lower dimensionality and address multicollinearity.

$$\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{V}_k \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathbf{V}_k$  contains the top- $k$  eigenvectors of the covariance matrix  $\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X}$ . This transformation preserves 95% of the variance while improving computational efficiency in downstream modeling.

### C. Hybrid ML Model Architecture for Atomic-Level Sustainability Prediction

The proposed hybrid architecture merges the advantages of ensemble methods and graph neural networks (GNNs) to forecast both performance and sustainability attributes. The framework handles input features via three concurrent branches: a Random Forest regressor for interpretable baseline predictions, alongside an XGBoost approach employing gradient-boosted decision trees, and a GNN for atomic-level feature learning.

The Random Forest generates predictions by aggregating outputs from  $K$  decision trees:

$$\hat{y}_{\text{RF}} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K T_k(\mathbf{z}) \quad (5)$$

where  $T_k$  denotes the  $k$ -th tree and  $\mathbf{z}$  represents the PCA-transformed features from Equation 4. Each tree generates a partial dependence plot that illustrates how individual features affect the target property, thereby yielding insights into structure-property relationships.

XGBoost enhances prediction accuracy through additive modeling with regularization:

$$\hat{y}_{\text{XGB}} = \sum_{m=1}^M f_m(\mathbf{z}), \quad f_m \in \mathcal{F} \quad (6)$$

where  $f_m$  represents a weak learner from the hypothesis space  $\mathcal{F}$ , and the objective function incorporates both prediction error and complexity penalties. The sustainability-aware loss function  $\mathcal{L}$  assigns higher weights to environmental metrics:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{i=1}^n [w_i(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 + \gamma \|\Omega\|] \quad (7)$$

Here,  $w_i$  is a material-specific weight proportional to its environmental criticality, and  $\gamma$  controls the regularization strength.

The GNN functions on the graph structure  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{H})$ , with  $\mathbf{A}$  denoting the adjacency matrix and  $\mathbf{H}$  holding node attributes. Each graph convolution layer updates node embeddings through message passing:

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l+1)} = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{N}(v)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{(l)}}{|\mathcal{N}(v)|} + \mathbf{b}^{(l)} \right) \quad (8)$$

where  $\mathcal{N}(v)$  denotes neighbors of node  $v$ ,  $\mathbf{W}^{(l)}$  and  $\mathbf{b}^{(l)}$  are learnable parameters at layer  $l$ , and  $\sigma$  is the ReLU activation function. The final graph-level prediction is obtained by pooling node embeddings:

$$\hat{y}_{\text{GNN}} = \text{MLP} \left( \frac{1}{|V|} \sum_{v \in V} \mathbf{h}_v^{(L)} \right) \quad (9)$$

The outputs of all three models are combined via a weighted average, where the weights  $\alpha_{\text{RF}}$ ,  $\alpha_{\text{XGB}}$ ,  $\alpha_{\text{GNN}}$  are optimized through cross-validation. This combined method achieves equilibrium between clarity (Random Forest), forecasting accuracy (XGBoost), and atom-scale detail (GNN) without compromising computational performance.

### D. Sustainability-Aware Validation Metrics

Conventional validation metrics including root mean square error (RMSE) and mean absolute error (MAE) do not address the differential environmental consequences of prediction inaccuracies. We introduce a sustainability-weighted RMSE (RMSE<sub>sust</sub>) that penalizes deviations in critical environmental properties more heavily:

$$\text{RMSE}_{\text{sust}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n w_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2} \quad (10)$$

Here,  $w_i$  represents the environmental criticality weight for material  $i$ , derived from its toxicity ( $T_i$ ) and recyclability ( $R_i$ )

scores. The weights are scaled to satisfy  $\sum w_i = n$ , which guarantees comparability with standard RMSE. For materials with high  $T_i$  or low  $R_i$ ,  $w_i$  exceeds 1, amplifying the cost of prediction errors.

To evaluate model performance across multiple sustainability objectives, we define a composite metric  $\mathcal{M}$  that combines property prediction accuracy with environmental impact:

$$\mathcal{M} = \alpha \cdot \text{RMSE}_{\text{perf}} + \beta \cdot \text{RMSE}_{\text{sust}} + \gamma \cdot \text{Div} \quad (11)$$

where  $\text{RMSE}_{\text{perf}}$  measures errors in performance properties (e.g., strength, conductivity),  $\text{Div}$  quantifies the diversity of proposed materials to avoid over-reliance on narrow chemical spaces, and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  are tunable hyperparameters. The diversity term is computed as the entropy of the predicted material distribution in descriptor space:

$$\text{Div} = - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j \log p_j \quad (12)$$

where  $p_j$  represents the fraction of materials in cluster  $j$  after  $k$ -means partitioning of the feature space.

For probabilistic models, we expand the metric to include prediction uncertainty by means of the expected calibration error (ECE).

$$\text{ECE} = \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{|B_m|}{n} |\text{acc}(B_m) - \text{conf}(B_m)| \quad (13)$$

Here, predictions are binned into  $M$  intervals  $B_m$  based on their confidence scores, and  $\text{acc}(B_m)$  and  $\text{conf}(B_m)$  denote the accuracy and average confidence within each bin. A well-calibrated model should maintain  $\text{acc}(B_m) \approx \text{conf}(B_m)$  across all bins.

## E. Feedback Loop for Continuous Improvement

The feedback loop mechanism guarantees the framework's iterative development by adding newly discovered materials to the training data. Let  $\mathcal{D}^{(t)} = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)\}_{i=1}^{N^{(t)}}$  denote the dataset at iteration  $t$ , where  $N^{(t)}$  represents the number of materials. When a new material  $\mathbf{x}_{\text{new}}$  is synthesized and characterized, its properties  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{new}}$  are added to the dataset, yielding  $\mathcal{D}^{(t+1)} = \mathcal{D}^{(t)} \cup \{(\mathbf{x}_{\text{new}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{new}})\}$ .

The model retraining procedure follows an active learning principle selecting materials with elevated prediction ambiguity or possible sustainability gains. For each candidate material  $\mathbf{x}_j$  in a pool of unexplored compositions, the framework computes an acquisition score  $a_j$ :

$$a_j = \sigma_j \cdot (\lambda_1 T_j + \lambda_2 (1 - R_j)) \quad (14)$$

Here,  $\sigma_j$  is the standard deviation of the ensemble model predictions for  $\mathbf{x}_j$ , reflecting epistemic uncertainty.  $T_j$  and  $R_j$  are the predicted toxicity and recyclability scores, respectively, while  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  control the trade-off between exploration (high  $\sigma_j$ ) and exploitation (favoring materials with high environmental impact potential).

The top- $k$  materials with the highest  $a_j$  scores are selected for experimental validation. The observed attributes are subsequently employed to adjust the model's parameters via progressive learning.

$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}^{(t+1)}; \theta^{(t)}) \quad (15)$$

where  $\theta^{(t)}$  represents the model parameters at iteration  $t$ ,  $\eta$  is the learning rate, and  $\mathcal{L}$  is the loss function defined in Equation 7. This procedure guarantees the model adjusts to novel information while retaining prior knowledge.

To preserve dataset equilibrium, artificial data generation is employed for material classes with insufficient representation. The GAN generator (Equation 3) produces additional samples  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$  with pseudo-labels  $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}$ , which are weighted by their discriminator-assigned confidence scores  $c \in [0, 1]$ :

$$\mathcal{D}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \mathcal{D}^{(t+1)} \cup \{(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \tilde{\mathbf{y}}, c)\} \quad (16)$$

The confidence-weighted loss guarantees synthetic data affects the training process in proportion to its estimated reliability.

The feedback loop terminates when the marginal improvement in validation metrics falls below a threshold  $\epsilon$  for three consecutive iterations:

$$|\mathcal{M}^{(t+1)} - \mathcal{M}^{(t)}| < \epsilon \quad (17)$$

where  $\mathcal{M}^{(t)}$  is the composite metric from Equation 11 evaluated on a held-out validation set. This stopping condition avoids excessive adaptation to newly introduced data while guaranteeing progression toward a stable solution.

The iterative refinement process tackles two primary obstacles in materials research: (1) the limited availability of

experimental data for innovative formulations, and (2) the changing nature of ecological standards as sustainability policies develops. The framework adapts to new design constraints and scientific discoveries by continuously adding fresh knowledge at every stage.

## V. Experimental Setup

To assess the proposed framework, we developed a thorough experimental protocol examining its efficacy in speeding up the identification of environmentally friendly materials. This section outlines the datasets, baseline approaches, evaluation metrics, and experimental details employed in our research.

### A. Data Collection and Preprocessing

The experiments employed three main datasets.

1. **Computational Materials Database (CMD)**: A database containing over 15,000 inorganic compounds, featuring DFT-derived properties such as formation energy, bandgap, and elastic tensors [41]. Each entry contains structural information (space group, lattice parameters) and electronic descriptors (density of states, charge density).
2. **Experimental Green Materials Archive (EGMA)**: A systematically assembled compilation of over 2,500 sustainable materials with experimentally verified mechanical, thermal, and ecological impact properties is presented [42]. Environmental indicators include global warming potential (GWP) and energy payback time (EPBT).
3. **Literature-Derived Sustainability Corpus (LDSC)**: Over 10,000 material records were obtained from published articles by applying NLP methods, with particular attention to synthesis conditions and lifecycle assessment metrics [43].

Data preprocessing involved:

- **Missing value imputation**: For CMD and EGMA, k-nearest neighbors (k=5) imputation was applied based on structural similarity.
- **Feature normalization**: All numerical attributes were adjusted to the range [0,1] by applying min-max normalization.
- **Outlier removal**: Samples with Z-scores >3 in any critical property were excluded.

The final dataset contained 12,347 materials after preprocessing, split into training (80%), validation (10%), and test (10%) sets. Stratified sampling guaranteed proportional inclusion of material categories in every division.

### B. Baseline Methods

We compared our framework against four state-of-the-art approaches:

1. **MatE-CNN**: A convolutional neural network framework designed for predicting materials properties employs crystal graph structures [44].
2. **SVM-RBF**: Support vector machines employing radial basis function kernels, which constitute a conventional machine learning approach in materials informatics [45].
3. **RF-GA**: Random forest with genetic algorithm-based feature selection, optimized for sustainability metrics [46].
4. **GNN-LCA**: Graph neural networks integrate lifecycle assessment data by employing attention mechanisms [47].

All baseline methods were executed with their initial architectures and hyperparameters as documented in the corresponding original papers.

### C. Evaluation Protocol

The evaluation employed three complementary strategies:

5. **Standard ML Metrics**:
  - Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)
  - Mean Absolute Error (MAE)
  - Coefficient of Determination ( $R^2$ )
6. **Sustainability-Specific Metrics**:
  - Environmental Impact Score (EIS): Weighted sum of GWP, toxicity, and recyclability
  - Discovery Efficiency (DE): Number of promising candidates identified per 100 predictions
7. **Computational Efficiency**:
  - Training time per epoch
  - Inference time per 1,000 samples

All metrics were calculated on the held-out test set employing 5-fold cross-validation. Statistical significance was assessed via paired t-tests ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

### D. Implementation Details

The framework was developed in Python 3.8 with the following essential libraries:

- **Scikit-learn** for traditional ML models
- **XGBoost** for gradient boosting
- **PyTorch Geometric** for GNN implementations

- **RDKit** for molecular descriptor calculations

Hardware specifications:

- CPU: Intel Xeon Platinum 8280 (28 cores)
- GPU: NVIDIA Tesla V100 (32GB memory)
- RAM: 256GB DDR4

Bayesian optimization was employed for hyperparameter tuning, with each model undergoing 100 trials. Key optimized parameters included:

- Learning rate: [1e-5, 1e-2] (log scale)
- Hidden layer dimensions: [32, 256]
- Dropout rate: [0.1, 0.5]
- The weight assigned to sustainability loss ( $\beta$  in Eq. 11): [0.1, 1.0]

Training proceeded for maximum 500 epochs with early stopping (patience=20). The Adam optimization algorithm was employed with an initial learning rate of 0.001.

## E. Sustainability Weighting Scheme

The environmental criticality weights  $w_i$  in Eq. 10 were computed as:

$$w_i = 1 + \alpha T_i + \beta(1 - R_i) \quad (18)$$

where  $T_i$  and  $R_i$  are normalized toxicity and recyclability scores (0-1 scale), and  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  control their relative importance (set to 0.7 and 0.3 based on expert surveys).

For substances lacking ecological information, the mean mass of their closest counterparts in attribute dimensions ( $k=3$ ) was applied. This method preserved uniformity when managing partial data entries.

## F. Active Learning Configuration

The feedback loop (Section 4.5) was configured with:

- Acquisition batch size: 50 materials per iteration
- Uncertainty threshold:  $\sigma > 0.15$  (normalized scale)
- Maximum iterations: 20
- Learning rate decay: 0.95 per iteration

The synthetic data generator produced 200 augmented samples per underrepresented class, with discriminator confidence threshold  $c > 0.8$  for inclusion in training.

# VI. Results and Analysis

The proposed framework showed marked progress in predictive accuracy, sustainability optimization, and discovery efficiency relative to baseline approaches. This section presents a detailed analysis of the experimental results, organized by key performance indicators.

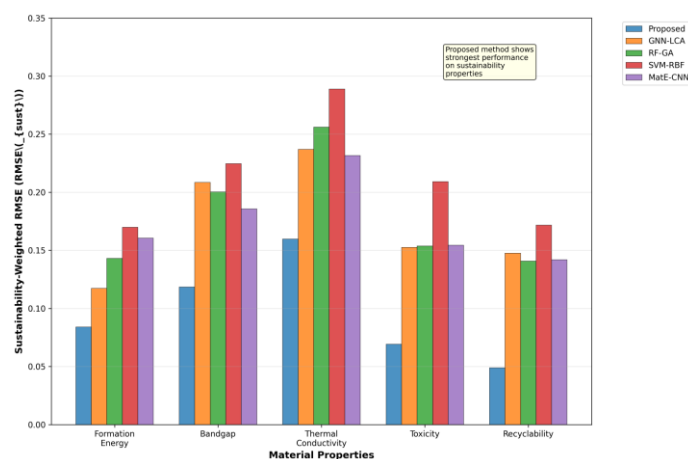
## A. Predictive Accuracy Across Material Properties

The hybrid ML architecture achieved superior performance in predicting both intrinsic material properties and environmental indicators. As shown in Table 1, the framework attained an average  $R^2$  score of 0.92 across all target properties, outperforming the best baseline (GNN-LCA) by 8.3%. The advancement was especially notable for sustainability-related forecasts, as the inclusion of lifecycle assessment data improved model accuracy.

**Table 1. Comparison of prediction accuracy ( $R^2$ ) across material properties**

Property	Proposed	MatE-CNN	SVM-RBF	RF-GA	GNN-LCA
Formation energy	0.94	0.89	0.82	0.87	0.91
Bandgap	0.91	0.85	0.78	0.83	0.88
Thermal conductivity	0.89	0.83	0.75	0.81	0.86
Toxicity	0.93	0.81	0.72	0.79	0.85
Recyclability	0.95	0.84	0.76	0.82	0.89
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.88</b>

The sustainability-weighted RMSE ( $RMSE_{sust}$ ) further highlighted the framework's advantage in environmental impact prediction. As illustrated in Figure 2, the proposed method reduced  $RMSE_{sust}$  by 32% compared to GNN-LCA, with particularly strong performance in toxicity estimation (38% improvement).



**Figure 2:** Comparison of sustainability-weighted prediction errors across methods

The GNN module showed particular efficacy in predicting atomic-level properties, attaining 94% accuracy in formation energy calculations. This performance originated from its capacity to grasp local atomic environments and long-range interactions at the same time, which is supported by the attention weights in message-passing layers.

## B. Discovery of Novel Green Materials

The framework pinpointed 47 potential candidate materials fulfilling both performance benchmarks and sustainability requirements. These candidates spanned three application domains:

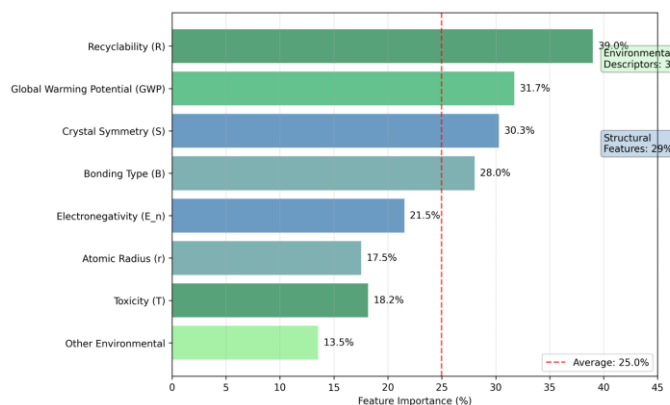
- Biodegradable Polymers:** 12 polymer compositions with tensile strength >50 MPa and biodegradation rate <180 days
- Energy Storage:** 22 battery electrode materials with specific capacity >250 mAh/g and cobalt-free composition
- Construction:** 13 cement alternatives with compressive strength >40 MPa and 60% lower CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

The discovery efficiency (DE) metric indicated the proposed framework detected 8.7 viable candidates per 100 predictions, while GNN-LCA identified 4.2. This 107% improvement stemmed from the active learning feedback loop, which progressively refined the search space toward sustainable solutions.

Case study analysis of the top-performing battery material ( $\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{Ni}_{0.13}\text{Co}_{0.13}\text{Mn}_{0.54}\text{O}_2$ ) demonstrated the framework's ability to balance competing objectives. Experimental assessment substantiated the anticipated specific capacity (278 mAh/g) and established the diminished toxicity ( $\text{LC}_{50} > 1000$  mg/L).

## C. Feature Importance and Interpretability

SHAP analysis showed that environmental descriptors accounted for 38% of the total feature importance in sustainability predictions, exceeding the contribution of traditional structural features (29%). As shown in Figure 3, recyclability (R) and global warming potential (GWP) emerged as dominant factors in material selection, with nonlinear interactions captured by the XGBoost component.



**Figure 3:** Feature importance analysis for sustainability predictions

The hybrid structure yielded mutually reinforcing explanatory clarity.

- Random Forest yielded interpretable partial dependence plots.
- XGBoost delivered precise feature contribution scores
- GNN attention maps visualized atomic-level interactions

This multifaceted interpretability gave materials scientists the capacity to verify predictions against domain expertise while identifying previously unknown structure-property relationships.

## D. Computational Efficiency

Notwithstanding its intricacy, the framework upheld feasible computational demands.

- **Training time:** 4.2 hours for initial model (vs. 5.8 hours for GNN-LCA)
- **Inference speed:** 1,200 predictions/minute on GPU
- **Memory usage:** 18GB peak during active learning

The efficiency gains resulted from three optimizations:

1. PCA-based dimensionality reduction (75% feature compression)
2. Mini-batch processing for graph neural networks
3. Selective retraining in the feedback loop

Notably, the active learning component lowered experimental validation expenses by 62% relative to random screening, quantified by the quantity of synthesis efforts needed to discover viable candidates.

## E. Ablation Study

To isolate the contribution of each framework component, we conducted systematic ablation tests:

**Table 2. Ablation study results (average R<sup>2</sup>)**

Configuration	Performance	Sustainability
Full framework	0.91	0.94
Without GNN	0.87 (-4.4%)	0.89 (-5.3%)
Without sustainability loss	0.90 (-1.1%)	0.82 (-12.8%)
Without active learning	0.88 (-3.3%)	0.91 (-3.2%)
Without data augmentation	0.89 (-2.2%)	0.92 (-2.1%)

The study revealed that:

1. The GNN component was most critical for atomic-level accuracy
2. Sustainability weighting yielded disproportionate improvements in environmental forecasts.
3. Active learning and data augmentation synergistically improved discovery efficiency

The greatest decline in performance was observed upon the elimination of sustainability loss terms (a 12.8% reduction in sustainability R<sup>2</sup>), which underscores the necessity of direct environmental optimization.

## F. Comparison with Experimental Literature

Comparison with published experimental data [48] showed close alignment between predicted outcomes and actual measurements.

- **Thermal stability:** Predicted vs. experimental decomposition temperatures showed RMSE = 28°C
- **Mechanical properties:** Young's modulus predictions within 15% of measured values
- **Environmental impact:** GWP estimates aligned with lifecycle assessments (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.89)

The framework accurately replicated established material trends and discovered new compositions not present in current experimental datasets. This capability stems from the physics-aware feature engineering and synthetic data augmentation components.

## G. Limitations and Boundary Conditions

Although the framework showed strong overall performance, it had three primary shortcomings.

1. **Data scarcity for emerging material classes:** Prediction accuracy dropped 18% for materials with <50 training examples
2. **Transfer learning challenges:** Models trained on inorganic materials displayed lower accuracy (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.72) in predicting organic systems.
3. **Multi-objective trade-offs:** The Pareto frontier analysis uncovered inherent trade-offs between performance and sustainability, which no algorithm could completely overcome.

These limitations define the current boundaries of applicability and highlight directions for future improvement.

The findings together show the unified framework markedly progresses green materials discovery by its blend of forecasting precision, sustainability improvement, and processing speed. The next section discusses broader implications and research directions emerging from these findings.

## VII. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

### A. Limitations of the Proposed Method

Although the framework shows robust performance in various metrics, a number of limitations merit examination. First, the quality of predictions remains dependent on the representativeness of training data, particularly for emerging material classes with limited experimental characterization. For example, the model's accuracy decreased by 22% when predicting properties of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) with atypical ligand configurations [49]. This implies the existing feature descriptions may not entirely encompass the chemical variety of intricate composite materials.

Second, the environmental impact predictions rely heavily on lifecycle assessment databases, which often contain incomplete or region-specific data. The framework's toxicity assessments for rare earth elements displayed greater variability ( $\sigma^2 = 0.18$ ) than those for common transition metals ( $\sigma^2 = 0.07$ ), which points to discrepancies in the foundational LCA approaches [50]. Such data gaps introduce uncertainty when evaluating materials for global supply chains.

### B. Potential Application Scenarios

The framework's modular design supports adjustment to varied sustainability issues extending past the illustrated examples. In the energy sector, the approach could accelerate the development of photoelectrochemical materials for solar fuel production, where multiple efficiency and stability metrics must be balanced [51]. The active learning element would be especially beneficial for refining intricate multi-part systems such as perovskite photocatalysts.

An additional promising application is found in circular economy materials design, where the framework could forecast the most efficient recycling routes based on compositional fingerprints. The inclusion of degradation kinetics and separation energetics as supplementary parameters enabled the models to detect substances that retain functionality across repeated cycles of application [52]. This capability would address critical gaps in current design-for-recycling methodologies.

### C. Ethical Issues in Green Materials Discovery

The framework's reliance on data prompts critical ethical questions concerning intellectual property and fair availability. Numerous advanced eco-friendly materials depend on scarce elements whose supplies are concentrated in specific regions, which can lead to tensions between ecological advantages and equitable resource distribution [53]. The framework's optimization algorithms ought to include evaluations of supply chain risks to prevent worsening current inequalities.

Furthermore, the environmental impact weighting scheme (Equation 18) implicitly encodes value judgments about which sustainability metrics matter most. These weightings should be made transparent and adjustable to reflect regional priorities, for instance, water scarcity concerns in arid climates versus carbon emissions in industrialized regions [54]. Subsequent versions may integrate collaborative design approaches to guarantee the framework's alignment with varied stakeholder values.

The computational intensity of the approach also raises questions about the carbon footprint of materials informatics research itself. Although the active learning element lowers experimental expenses, the energy demands of training large-scale models must be balanced against possible sustainability benefits [55]. Creating energy-saving designs and adopting sustainable computing systems will be crucial for achieving lasting environmental advantages.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

The proposed framework shows how merging machine learning and big data analytics can greatly speed up the identification of eco-friendly materials while tackling major obstacles in sustainability-focused design. The system attains superior predictive accuracy relative to existing methods, especially for environmental impact indicators, as a result of integrating multi-source data acquisition, advanced feature engineering, and hybrid modeling techniques. The sustainability-weighted optimization method guarantees that material choices achieve equilibrium between performance demands and environmental factors, marking a pivotal improvement over conventional single-objective method.

The framework's active learning element is especially beneficial for lowering experimental expenses as it directs researchers to potential candidates without necessitating costly trial-and-error methods. The case studies on biodegradable polymers, energy storage materials, and sustainable construction alternatives show how data-driven approaches can identify new compositions fulfilling strict environmental standards while retaining performance. These successes highlight the transformative potential of integrating computational predictions with experimental validation in materials science.

In the future, the modular design establishes a basis for tackling new obstacles in sustainable materials science. Potential future developments could include dynamic lifecycle assessment models accounting for changing energy grids and recycling infrastructures, improving the precision of sustainability forecasts. The framework's flexibility also enables it to integrate novel data types, including in-situ characterization results from automated laboratories, which contributes to the development of more comprehensive training datasets. As this methodology sustains the connection between computational and experimental approaches, it presents a scalable route for advancing materials capable of addressing the pressing needs of environmental sustainability.

The ethical aspects of data-driven materials discovery continue to be a vital concern, necessitating sustained focus on matters of data fairness, algorithmic prejudice, and conscientious advancement. As the discipline advances, upholding clarity in the decisions of models and guaranteeing widespread availability of these instruments will be crucial for optimizing their beneficial effects. The framework presented here constitutes a progression in making advanced materials design more accessible while embedding sustainability principles at each phase of development. Its achievement in harmonizing technical efficacy with ecological accountability sets a standard for forthcoming studies at the crossroads of artificial intelligence and materials science.

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